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UNCLAS KINGSTON 002509

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CAR (BENT)

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S
INCREASING EXTREMSIM

REF: STATE 199225

This message is Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU). Please handle accordingly.

1. (U) On November 4, Polcouns contacted MFA Bilateral Affairs Department Director Courtenay Rattray to convey reftel points, and to ask whether the GOJ had publicly rejected Iranian President Ahamdi-Nejad's disturbing comments.

2. (U) Rattray replied that the GOJ shared the sentiment behind the UN Security Council's expressed condemnation of the remarks, adding that he was unaware of any public statement on the matter by any Jamaican official. He agreed to check further as to whether any GOJ reply had been made.

3. (SBU) Comment: The lack of any public GOJ expression of condemnation of the Iranian remarks is hardly surprising, particularly in view of Prime Minister P.J. Patterson's reluctance to antagonize publicly those states or leaders that tend to be sympathetic to Patterson's G-77 stewardship. Department may wish to keep this tendency in mind the next time Patterson or another senior GOJ official rushes to express "principled opposition" to a U.S. statement or deed, as they are rarely shy about doing in response to USG actions with which they disagree.
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